Jordan Croteau

Interview Data

Veterans/Silent Generation – Memere, Born 1937

Q: What were the expectations for your education?

A: The expectation of our generation was focused more on our world issues. Many kids, including your grandfather, did not finish school because of the war. I did not finish school and work a few part time jobs.

Q: What were the expectations for the business on your education?

A: A lot of the kids were focused more on working in the berlin mill to help out their families than graduating high school.

Q: How were classes physically set up?

A: All the desks were wooden benches with a small wood table in front of us. Some classes had chairs that had small wrap around side tables for use to write on.

Q: What types of strategies did the teachers use?

A: Military style learning. Lecture style was used the most. All students were expected to learn the same way and at the same pace.

Q: What do you remember about the economic statues and diversity at your school?

A: Many of the families were French Canadian. A lot of kids could speak French, including I, because our parents talked French to us. Economic statues were about the same because most of the men worked at the Berlin mill, which is no longer there.

Q: What types of classes did you take?

A: There was many differences between the classes taught today. We learned spelling, literature, history, geography, and French.

Q: What did your school look like?

A: Two story building with three classes on each floor. Chain link fence that wrapped around the school.

Q: How many students were in you class?

Not many. I think there was like 80 kids in our school. We were in a small part of New Hampshire. Again, not many kids were expected to finish school.

Q: Overall what do you remember most about your education?

I remember walking to school every day with my three siblings. Two brothers and one sister all about the same age. I liked school but it was hard for me to finish because I was expected to start a family and take care of the house while pepere was away.

Generation X – Mom, Born 1965

Q: What were the expectations for your education?

A: The expectation was to graduate high school and either go to college or work. My family did not have much money so college would only be an option if I wanted to pay for all of it.

Q: What were the expectations for the business on your education?

A: I took a finances class in high school and I was pretty good at it. This is what got me starting with banking, which I have been doing for 25 years now. I couldn’t pay for college so this was the best option for me. It was much easier getting a job out of high school back then.

Q: How were classes physically set up?

Most classes were set up in rows of desks. Science class was different though because we did a lot of labs and learning on our feet. In my finances class, we used desktop computers so the room was set up like a computer lab. Computers were fairly new, I did use a typewriter in school a little bit.

Q: What types of strategies did the teachers use?

Most of the classes were taught by lecture. The teacher would show us how to do a problem on the board and we were expected to be able to then do it on our own.

Q: What do you remember about the economic statues and diversity at your school?

A: Most of the kids in EL back then were white. This was just before Somali’s made their way to the Lewiston/Auburn area. The economic statues were all over the board. My family was had a lower level which made it harder for me in school. Popularity played a huge role in schools back then and it seemed the popular kids were higher up on the economic scale.

Q: What types of classes did you take?

We took the basic classes like algebra, geometry, biology, and chemistry. Like I said I took the finance class that I enjoyed.

Q: What did your school look like?

A: I went to the same school that is there today. You know what that school is like because you have played sports there many times.

Q: How many students were in you class?

I graduated with around 300 kids. There was a lot of people living in Lewiston/Auburn back then.

Q: Overall what do you remember most about your education?

A: I remember going to school with my three siblings, two brothers and a sister. My brothers were big into drinking and it seemed like they were getting in trouble a lot. One day your uncle got arrested in the school parking lot for doing doughnuts in his truck. I was the oldest of four so I was held to the expectation to be the role model by my dad.